

REMARKS

Claims 6-7 are rejected. Claims 8-13 are withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 7 are amended. Claims 14- 19 are added. 6-7 and 14 – 19 are pending.

Support for added claims is found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter is added.

102 Rejections:

Hibner (US 6120,462):

Claim 6 and 7 are rejected as anticipate by Hibner. It's respectfully urged this rejection is improper for at least the reasons set forth below.

The Examiner states that 6,120,462 discloses a base including a firing mechanism, and refers to Col 7, lines 34-36 of Hibner. That portion of Hibner states:

"Those skilled in the art may appreciate that a mount or "nest" could be provided to hold the handpiece 20 securely to the *movable arm* of an X-ray stereotactic table. (italics added)

It is respectfully urged that the portion of the '462 patent cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest the use of a device for firing a piercer, especially in view of the '462 patent stating the handpiece can be held on a movable arm. In other words, the handpiece 20 is taught to be mounted on a movable arm, so there would be no teaching (or even suggestion) to employ a firing mechanism. Instead, it is respectfully urged that one reading '462 would direct the movable arm with the handpiece to direct the piercer into tissue, and there would be no need or suggestion to employ firing mechanism.

Conclusion:

The examiner is requested to reconsider Claims 6 and 7, consider the new claims, and allow all the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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